

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No: 09/775,760

Group Art Unit: 1623

Inventor(s): Mallon et al.

Filed: 2/2/01

Title: PRODUCTION OF POLYSACCHARIDE ETHERS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTHon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified
patent application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims *cancel?*Please amend claims 1-32 without prejudice. *? Cancel?*

Please add new claims 33-51 as follows:

- Sub B*
A1
33. In a process for producing polysaccharide ethers
comprising:
- (i) treating polysaccharide with a basic compound to
promote swelling of the polysaccharide;
 - (ii) reacting the polysaccharide with at least one
derivatizing agent in a liquid medium comprising at least one
organic solvent under conditions effective to promote a reaction
between the polysaccharide and the derivatizing agent and form
a reaction product comprising a polysaccharide ether, the basic
compound and the organic solvent and a residue of the
polysaccharide;
 - (iii) treating at least a portion of the reaction product
comprising the basic compound with an acidic compound to
provide a neutralized liquid comprising a salt of the acidic
compound and the basic compound; and

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